

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A lid assembly for a rotatable atomizer wheel having an atomizing chamber therein, said lid assembly comprising:

5 a lid member adapted to fit onto the rotatable atomizer wheel over the atomizing chamber, said lid member having an first opening there through into the atomizing chamber when said lid member is positioned on the atomizer wheel; and

10 a wear ring for protecting the first opening through said lid member, said wear ring being fitted inside and extending through the first opening through said lid member, said wear ring having a second opening there through into the atomizing chamber when said lid member with said wear ring fitted therein is positioned on the atomizer wheel

2. A lid assembly as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a containment ring adjacent said lid member and surrounding said wear ring.

15 3. A lid assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said wear ring is comprised of a wear resistant material having greater wear resistance than the lid member.

4 A lid assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said wear ring is comprised of a material selected from the group of materials consisting of silicon carbide material, tool steel, heat treated stainless steel and carbide castings.

20 5. A lid assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said lid member is comprised of a material selected from the group of materials consisting of stainless steel, Hastelloy and titanium.

6. A lid assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first opening through said lid member has a first recess around the circumferences thereof; and

wherein said lid assembly further comprises first cushioning and sealing means within the first recess in said lid member and adjacent said wear ring.

7. A lid assembly as claimed in Claim 6, further comprising a containment ring adjacent said lid member and surrounding said wear ring, and

5 wherein said lid member has a second recess therein adjacent said containment ring, and wherein said lid assembly further comprises second cushioning and sealing means within the second recess in said lid member and adjacent said wear ring.